In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently amended)   A ~~system~~ method for providing secure ~~E-mail~~ message services comprising:

~~a forwarding service operable to~~

~~receive an E-mail message for delivery to a recipient;~~ receiving a message for delivery to a recipient;

~~store the message atleast temporarily in a storage means;~~

~~check for recipient preferences for delivery of the E-mail message content;~~

~~if no preference is specified and if Web-based delivery is specified,~~

~~provide an E-mail notification to the recipeint including a secure link to the message, and~~

~~respond to a page request from the recipient indicating the message including extracting the message from the storage means, formatting the message as a page and delivering the page to the recipient's web browser; and~~

~~if a preference for delivery other than Web-based is specified, deliver the message in accordance with the recipient's preference.~~

checking for preferences for delivery of the message content including security preferences;

delivering the message content in accordance with the preferences including securing the message content in accordance with the determined security preferences.

2.   (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the preferences are recipient preferences.

3.   (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the preferences are sender preferences.

4.   (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving the message for delivery to a recipient at a forwarding service.

5.   (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the received message is an Email message.

6. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the received message is an SMTP post.

7. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of delivering the message content includes sending an Email including the message content to the recipient.

8. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the preferences are preferences associated with a recipient's computer network.

9. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the preferences are preferences associated with a sender's computer network.

10. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the recipient is a computer.

11. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the preferences are set by an administrator of a network associated with one of the sender and the recipient.

12. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising
determining if no delivery preference is specified or if Web-based delivery is specified and providing a notification to the recipient including a secure link to the message content.

13. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of providing a notification includes providing an Email to the recipient.

14. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining security preferences includes determining a security protocol for use in sending the message content to the recipient and where the method further includes searching for keys associated with the recipient to be used in encrypting the message content to be sent to the recipient.

15. (New) The method of claim 14 further comprising determining if the located keys can be used in accordance with the determined security protocol, and if so, then securing the message content in accordance with the determined security protocol and using the located keys.

16. (New) A system for securely processing messages for delivery from a sender to a recipient comprising:

a receiving engine for receiving messages from a sender for delivery to a recipient;

a processing engine for processing received messages and for producing standard form messages for selected ones of the messages received from the sender;

a preference engine for determining delivery preferences for the message including security preferences; and

a forwarding engine for forwarding a notification to the recipient if required by the determined delivery preferences, the notification indicating to the user that a message is available to be retrieved;

wherein the processing engine is operable to not produce a standard form message and the forwarding engine is operable to not forward a notification if

the determined preferences indicate direct delivery to the recipient is requested, and

where the security preferences indicate a security protocol by which the message can be securely delivered.

17. (New) The system of claim 16 wherein the selected ones are messages in a non-native format.

18. (New) The system of claim 16 further comprising a storage means for storing standard form messages that are to be temporarily stored in the system.

19. (New) The system of claim 16 wherein the standard form message includes an authentication block, a message block and attachments if any.

20.   (New) The system of claim 16 wherein the processing engine is operable to determine an authentication of the sender to use the system.

21.   (New) The system of claim 20 wherein the processing engine is operable to determine an authentication of the sender including determining a sender authorization pass phrase for the sender, compare the determined sender authorization pass phrase for the sender with a pass phrased provided by the sender with the message and not forward messages from unauthenticated senders.

22.   (New) The system of claim 16 wherein the processing engine includes plural filter layers for processing different types of received messages, one or more of the filter layers providing output of the standard form.

23.   (New) The system of claim 16 wherein the preference engine is operable to determine security preferences for the recipient including locating keys associated with the recipient for use in encrypting messages, determining if the keys can be used in accordance with a determined security protocol and sending the message directly to the recipient in accordance with the determined security protocol and using the located keys.

24.   (New) A method for providing secure message services using a forwarding service comprising:
        receiving a message for delivery to a recipient;
        checking for preferences for delivery of the message content including a security preference where the security preference includes an encryption preference;
        if a preference for delivery is specified, delivering the message content in accordance with the delivery preference including encrypting the message content in accordance with the encryption preference.

25.   (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of receiving the message includes receiving an email message.

26. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of receiving the message includes receiving an SMTP post that includes the message content.

27. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of providing a notification includes providing an email notification.

28. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising storing the message content at least temporarily in a storage means.

29. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising if no preference for delivery is specified, providing a notification to the recipient including a secure link to the stored message content.

30. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising if no preference for delivery and if Web-based delivery is specified, providing a notification to the recipient including a secure link to the stored message content.

31. (New) The method of claim 29 or 30 wherein the notification is an email.

32. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the preferences are recipient preferences.

33. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the preferences are sender preferences.

34. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the preferences are preferences associated with a recipient's computer network.

35. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the preferences are preferences associated with a sender's computer network.

36. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the recipient is a computer.

37.   (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the preferences are set by an administrator of a network associated with one of the sender and the recipient.

38.   (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of determining security preferences includes determining a security protocol for use in sending the message content to the recipient and where the method further includes searching for keys associated with the recipient to be used in encrypting the message content to be sent to the recipient.

39.   (New) The method of claim 38 further comprising determining if the located keys can be used in accordance with the determined security protocol, and if so, then securing the message content in accordance with the determined security protocol and using the located keys.

40.   (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising producing a standard format message.

41.   (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising storing a standard format message in a queue structure.

42.   (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising listing user preference data in an access list.

43.   (New) A system for securely processing messages for delivery from a sender to a recipient comprising:

   receiving means for receiving messages from a sender for delivery to a recipient;

   a processing engine for processing received messages for producing standard form messages for at least some of the messages received from the sender;

   a delivery engine for determining delivery preferences for a message including security preferences; and

a forwarding engine for forwarding a notification to the recipient if required by the determined delivery preferences, the notification indicating to the user that a message is available to be retrieved

44.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein one or more of the received messages are email messages.

45.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein one or more of the received messages are SMTP posts that include a message.

46.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the notification is an email notification.

47.   (New) The system of claim 43 further comprising storage for storing the message at least temporarily.

48.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein if the delivery engine determines there is no preference for delivery, the delivery engine provides a notification to the recipient including a secure link to the stored message.

49.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein if the delivery engine determines there is no preference for delivery and if Web-based delivery is specified, the delivery engine further providing a notification to the recipient including a secure link to the stored message.

50.   (New) The system of claims 48 and 49 wherein the notification is an email.

51.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the preferences are recipient preferences.

52.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the preferences are sender preferences.

53.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the preferences are preferences associated with a recipient's computer network.

54.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the preferences are preferences associated with a sender's computer network.

55.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the recipient is a computer.

56.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the preferences are set by an administrator of a network associated with one of the sender and the recipient.

57.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the delivery engine determines a security protocol for use in sending the message to the recipient and searches for keys associated with the recipient to be used in encrypting the message to be sent to the recipient.

58.   (New) The system of claim 57 wherein the delivery engine determines if the located keys can be used in accordance with the determined security protocol, and if so, then the delivery engine secures the message in accordance with the determined security protocol and uses the located keys.

59.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the delivery engine produces a standard format message.

60.   (New) The system of claim 59 further comprising a queue structure for storing the standard format message.

61.   (New) The system of claim 60 wherein the delivery engine is operable to bypass storing the standard form of a message in the queue structure and forward a notification if the determined preferences indicate direct delivery to the recipient is requested, and

where the security preferences indicate a security protocol by which the message can be securely delivered.

62.   (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the standard form message includes an authentication block, a message block and attachments if any.

63.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the processing engine is operable to determine an authentication of the sender to use the system.

64.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the processing engine is operable to determine an authentication of the sender including determining a sender authorization pass phrase for the sender, compare the determined sender authorization pass phrase for the sender with a pass phrased provided by the sender with the message and not forward messages from unauthenticated senders.

65.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the processing engine includes plural filter layers for processing different types of received messages

66.   (New) The system of claim 65 wherein each filter layer provides output of a standard format.

67.   (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the delivery engine is operable to determine security preferences for the recipient including locating keys associated with the recipient for use in encrypting messages, determine if the keys can be used in accordance with a determined security protocol and send the message directly to the recipient in accordance with the determined security protocol and use the located keys.